

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell separator molding method for molding an electrically conductive material having poor flowability, comprising

providing a stationary die with a cavity having a variable volume and a plurality of plate-like separator molding portions connected to each other in said cavity and disposed in a co-planar relationship to one another,

providing a movable die for cooperation with the cavity,

supplying the electrically conductive material to the cavity, and

after or while said electrically conductive material is supplied to said cavity, moving the movable die toward the stationary die to reduce the volume of said cavity, so that a plurality of plate-like fuel cell separators are co-planar molded at one time,

wherein adjacent separator molding portions of said plurality of plate-like separator molding portions define therebetween connecting portion ribs which during molding

produce thin walled excess portions (P4, P6, P7) between adjacent molded co-planar fuel cell separators.

2. (Previously presented) A fuel cell separator molding method according to claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive material is supplied to said cavity from one supply means and is compression molded.

3. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell separator molding method according to claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive material having poor flowability is supplied to said cavity from an injection device, directly through a gate portion only or through a sprue portion and the gate portion only, and is injection compression molded.

4. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell separator molding method according to claim 1, wherein said electrically conductive material having poor flowability is a melted resin material containing 60-95% by weight of an electrically conductive filler.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell separator that is molded by the fuel cell separator molding method according to claim 1 and, then, separated into each piece.

7. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell separator molding method of claim 3,

wherein said cavity having a variable volume is disposed in a substantially horizontal orientation and comprises four of said separator molding portions which extend horizontally from a centrally disposed inlet to the cavity from the injection device, the inlet being spaced substantially equidistant from all four separator molding portions, and

wherein the electrically conductive material having poor flowability is supplied to the cavity from an injection device.

8. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell separator molding method of claim 7 wherein the electrically conductive material comprises a melted resin material containing a major portion of conductive particles.

9. (New) The fuel cell separator molding method of claim 1, further comprising

providing said stationary die with a bottom portion forming surface which is movable upon completion of said molding, and

withdrawing said movable die and moving the bottom portion forming surface of said fixed die upwardly to eject the molded fuel cell separators.

10. (New) The fuel cell separator molding method of claim 3,

wherein said cavity having a variable volume comprises four of said separator molding portions which extend from a centrally disposed inlet to the cavity from the injection device, the inlet being spaced substantially equidistant from all four separator molding portions.

11. (New) The fuel cell separator molding method of claim 10, wherein

the initial volume of said cavity is 10-200% larger than the final volume of said cavity, and

removable die is moved at a speed of 2mm/sec to 50mm/sec.

12. (New) The fuel cell separator molding method of claim 3, wherein

said plurality of separator molding portions of said cavity are provided with a plurality of grooves and ridges which extend in the same direction, and

said electrically conductive material having poor flowability is injected into said cavity in a direction parallel to said grooves and ridges.

13. (New) the fuel cell separator molding method of claim 1, further comprising ejecting the co-planar molded plurality of fuel cell separators from the cavity, and separating the fuel cell separators from one another.